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NW 50955 DocId:32204599 Page 1 MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Meeting of the Special Group, 30 August 1962.

THE WHITE HOUSE OF

FRESERI. General Taylor, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gilpatric, General Carter, General Leunitzer, and Mr. Bundy

Colonel Steakley was present for Items 1 -3.

Mr. P-ford Herbert was present for Items 4-6.

l. Reconnaissance

A. DOD Peripheral Flights

The peripheral flights were approved as presented. It was noted that LOLLY would involve only a single aircraft as opposed to the previous two plane flights in this area. As to LUCETTE and MICHELE, it was pointed out that these flights would not be flown while the Soviet nuclear test prohibited zone was still in effect. In response to a question from Mr. Johnson as to why these flights were 40 rather than 50 miles off the coast, Colonel Steakley said that the distance selected was a variable, depending on the purpose of the flight and other conditions.

B. Laus

Mr. Gilpatric presented the Defense position. In view of the Soviet transport sireraft stand down and the indications that the Communists were at least going through the motions of carrying out the agreement, Defense was in favor of not reopening the matter until the 75 day withdrawal period was over and an evaluation had been made of the degree of Communist compliance. General Lemnitzer, while willing to take the risk of waiting, said he would like to make it clear that from the military point of view it was most important that we have good information on Communist activities. These flights are our prime source of hard information. The consensus of the Group was that this subject would not be reopened until after the 75 day withdrawal period was over.

C. Cverflights of South Laos

(1) Colonel Steakley pointed out that there was one problem, in connection with a flat prohibition on photo flights over Laos. At present, EF-101's based in Thailand must overfly the southern panhandle

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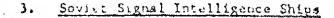
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enroute to execute missions in South Vietnam. He proposed that the general policy to modified to permit high slittude overflights (35,000 feet) to and from South Vietnam, by planes based in Thailand. It was brought out that the average activity level was about two missions about every three days. There was agreement that photo reconnaissance in general against guerrilla targets was difficult but that this made it, all the more important to do all that we can. These flights are essentially covert; as current agreements preclude the filing of flight plans for photo aircraft. Hr. Johnson said that the Department was willing to go along with this activity, but felt that the matter had to be reviewed by higher authority one to his very explicit previous instructions to the contrary. The Group's decision to approve this specific exception to the prohibition against photo flights over Laos was later reported to higher authority.

- (2) In discussing the matter above, the desirability of redeploying the aircraft to South Vietnam was mentioned. This matter was referred to Defense for further examination. It was also recognized that the South Vietnamese might well be given some indigenous capability for photo reconnsissance. It was also suggested that possible Laos overflights, after the 75 day period had clapsed, might well be put in the standard overflight category rather than being handled as a separate item.
 - D. The ELINT flights from Thailand were discussed and approved with the understanding that they would use the specific routes indicated
 - E. The Agency's monthly forecast was reviewed and noted. All of the flights contained therein had been previously approved. General Carter mentioned that there might be an additional requirement for flights over Cuba.
 - F. The destroyer surveillance mission DESOTO was discussed and approved. It was pointed out that the ship generally operates 20 miles offshore, but closes to 12 miles under certain conditions. The Group requested that they be informed if any of the verious ELINI operations picked up unusual indications.
 - G. The Group reviewed certain submarine activities and approved them as presented.

2. Resupply of the Macs

General Carter raised the question of exactly how approval should be obtained for arms and ammunition resupply missions to the Meos. If i was agreed that this was a matter for consultation between the Department of State and CLA, and need not be referred to the Group for decision.



The Group considered an outline plan for "communication" with Communist crews. The general consensus was that this plan did not fall within the purview of the Special Group. It was referred back to JCJ for further development. The matter will be discussed at a State-JCS meeting to be held in the near future. Mr. Gilpatric also exp. essed interest in seeing a more detailed development of the Loncept. Mr. Bundy pointed out that we should be careful where such activities are pursued. Generally speaking, they should be limited to the high seas or international air space. General Carter raised the point that this concept should not be attetched to include defection operations on land. This is a highly skilled operation which requires special attention and control. The Group took no particular position for or against the concept in referring it back to Defense.

4. Chile

The Group reviewed the	Mr. Johnson stressed
the necessity for	and
also expressed some concern a	about the possibility of the Eadicals
pulling out prematurely and l	bringing the vovermment down.
they would l	be aware of the future political arrange-
ments which it is falt would	be to the common interests of Chile and
	p approved the recommendation in paragraph
5 on page 7.	, ii

5. Dominican Espublic

The Group noted this paper. Ceneral Carter urged the Department of State to continue to press the interim government on the desirability of holding early elections.

6. Panema

Mr. Johnson said that State concurred in the general thrust of this paper, but would like to limit the continuation of the program to a three-month period during which time it would be reviewed in detail by State and CIA. The Group approved the proposal with this reservation.

7. General Lemnitzer stated that Mr. McCone had called him and posed a possible requirement for low-level photography of critical Cuban targets. General Lemnitzer said that from the military point of view this was feasible, utilizing either RF-101 or F8U aircraft flown by U.S. pilots from various bases or carriers in the Caribbean area. The

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use of Cuban pilots would involve a delay of some months due to the precise training required. General Carter pointed out that we are accused distinction of overflights in any case and that the possibility of Coban process should not dissuade us from making these flights if they are recessary. It was pointed out that other types of photography, while useful in pinpointing critical targets, does not give sufficient detail for precise identification of certain types of equipment. After some discussion, the Group agreed to take cognizance of this matter and requested that it be recopered at an appropriate time when specific targets and information needs could be identified.

8. It was agreed that the Agency would present a paper concerning Action Assinst North Vietnam at next week's meeting.

** * *

General Taylor did not have an opportunity to review these minutes prior to his departure.

FOR OLINAS

Julian J. Eweil Colonel, USA

Distribution

Mr. Johnson Mr. Gilpatric General Carter General Taylor